



## THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS.

For the past two or three weeks, we have had wet weather and heavy rains, which were very favorable to growing crops, which had been suffering from drought. Many of the farmers who had just commenced haying have had their hay somewhat damaged, although we have heard of no serious loss from this cause, as yet. The crops, in this section, are looking remarkably thrifty, and fast making up for the backwardness of the early season. New potatoes are coming in plentifully, and are of a good size. The potato crop promises well, at present. Fruit of all kinds is looking well. Plums will be more plentiful, this fall, than for several years past. The orchards are well loaded with apples, and the prospect is that fruit will be abundant and size is oftentimes remarkable.

The wild strawberry is generally found to possess a higher flavor than most of the new seedling varieties, which have been produced by horticulturists, but they do not so often prove to be prolific when put into the garden and care fully cultivated.

The vines and leaves will increase in size, and the fruit too often comes up minus. Hence it will be better to propagate some of the best artificial varieties.

From what we can gather from a very little experience of our own, from careful observation of the management by others, and from reports of discussions in Horticultural Societies, the following kinds are worthy of culture among us, viz.—Early Scarlet, Hovey's Seedling, Walker's Seedling, Wilson's Seedling, Burr's New Pine, Hooker's Seedling.

There are a great many other varieties, some of which grow large but are not well flavored, or are too soft for carriage to any distance, etc.

It must be observed to those who have not carefully attended to the subject, that the blossoms of some varieties are not perfect. That is, some of them have no stamens or pollen producing organs. As this pollen or dust is necessary in order to fertilize the pistils, those varieties destitute of them must be planted with some varieties that have them. For instance, Hovey's Seedling is destitute of stamens and pollen, while a man has them, and hence the Early Scarlet is used for that purpose.

We believe the kinds that we have enumerated above all have perfect flowers, except Hovey's Seedling and Burr's New Pine. The best time to set out strawberries is in the month of August, though September will do, and it is best to set them out in hills with a pretty broad path between the rows. Two, or at most three years are long enough for them to remain; by that time, they will, if the runners are not clipped, fill the whole bed. Some kinds, it is true, will bear well in this form, but most of them will do better in hills. Hovey's Seedling is one of these, it will produce as well again in hills as in a mass.

The soil for strawberries should be stirred up pretty deep, and made moderately rich with muck, leaves, and rotten vegetables, and it should be in a situation where water can be freely used while they are in blossom and fruiting.

Let nature guide you a little in this business. Whereabouts do you find them largest and most abundantly in the fields? In those fields or meadows that have been recently laid down to grass, when the soil has been deeply stirred, well dressed, and is full of moisture, and where there are plenty of decaying leaves and rotten wood. The same conditions will give you a good crop in the garden, rendered larger by the absence of grass and other plants. Litter, such as leaves, shavings, sawdust, tanner's bark, or straw, may be thrown over them in winter. In spring and summer, much decomposed vegetable matter, and plenty of irrigation will generally insure you a crop.

For the Maine Farmer.

## DRYING CURRANTS.

MR. EDITOR.—Will you have the goodness to inform me and others, the best mode of drying currants and other pulpy fruits,—also, the best way to preserve rhubarb for winter use?

What use can be made of full grown gooseberries which are mildew coated?

J. W. K. Norwood.

Camden, July 24, 1858.

A GOOD IDEA.—Our friend of the State of Maine in enumerating the changes that have taken place within a few years, and the prospects of what may be expected in the next few years, says—

"We shall also find a growing sentiment of State pride in Maine, as we gradually learn to respect ourselves, and value our own position."

The next five years will witness a rapid advance in all the material interests of the State, and the thousand sturdy men who have already planted themselves this year in the Aroostook, are an advance guard of a noble army, in a new field of honorable enterprise, whose influence will be felt throughout the State.

With our vast domain occupied, our manufacturing facilities improved, Maine would, at the next few years become the finest portion of the continent.

Toward the accomplishment of these ends, we hope to labor, while we learn to wait."

TRAVEL IN A CORN FIELD. Some Yankees, we presume it is, has communicated to Emery's Journal of Agriculture the amount of travel which some of our Western brethren, who cultivate a hundred acres of corn, have to take, from the time the plow is first put in, until the corn is housed. He says that it requires sixteen hundred miles travel to do it up right. In order to obviate this great amount of journeying, he recommends the invention of more machinery, so that two or more rows can be cultivated at once, thus reducing the labor very essentially.

Kennebec, at Readfield, Oct. 12, 13, 14. So. Kennebec, at Gardiner, Oct. 12, 13, 14. Lincoln, at Jefferson, Oct. 12, 13, 14. Somerset, at Skowhegan, Sept. 28, 29, 30. No. Somerset, at Solon, Oct. 13, 14.

DIDN'T DO IT, FRIEND. The American Agriculturist, one of the most valuable of our agricultural exchanges,通知 us that the receipt for making currant wine, which we published in No. 31, should have been credited to that paper. That is a fact, friend Judd, but the fault is not ours. It would tax a longer memory than ours, to remember all the good things that appear in the pages of the Agriculturist. Besides, the receipt in question was cut out from the columns of one of your own city neighbors, where it appeared without any credit whatever. Don't try to whip them, over our shoulders.

TAX A NEIGHBOR'S GOOD OFFICE AS SODOM AS POSSIBLE. "Do not ride a free horse to death!" is true but good advice. Rely upon your own resources as much as possible. Human nature delights in novelties, hence look out that an opportunity for your neighbor to serve you is a novelty.

CABBAGES. There is no crop raised that is a general thing, pays better on good soil, than cabbages. The product per acre is of greater nutritive value than that of any other crop known.

FOR THE MAINE FARMER.  
COMPARATIVE VALUE OF ROOTS.

MR. EDITOR.—Will you, or some of your readers, inform me what is the comparative value of roots for cattle and hogs?

There are many farmers that practice feeding roots that have never made any accurate estimate of their value, compared with different kinds of grain, hay, &c.

In conversation with a gentleman upon this subject he said, that he had practiced feeding his horse with eight quarts of oats and eight quarts of carrots a day, and that he performed more labor and was in better condition than when fed sixteen quarts of oats a day. In this case a bushel of carrots is equal in value to a bushel of oats.

What is the value of rutabagas, carrots, beets, parsnips, and potatoes, compared with rye, oats, peas, barley, buckwheat, corn, and hay, when fed to cattle and hogs?

I want to investigate this subject, and take this course, hoping to receive information from those who have made accurate experiments; and any such information will be gratefully received by me.

FORT FAIRFIELD, June 23, 1858.

NOTE. We have several times given statements of chemists and others, of their experiments to ascertain the comparative value of the different roots and other substances used for feeding—good hay being the standard.

IN NO. 21, VOL. 24, we published the following editorial upon this subject, which may give some light to our friend by way of an answer to his queries:

IT IS A GREAT OBJECT TO THE FARMERS OF MAINE TO RAISE A SUPPLY OF THE BEST KINDS OF FODDER FOR THEIR STOCK DURING THE WINTER. HAY, WE ALL KNOW, IS THE GREAT DEPENDENCE—THE STAPLE MATERIAL FOR THIS PURPOSE, BUT THERE ARE MANY OTHER CROPS WHICH CAN BE RAISED TO ADVANTAGE AMONG US, AND WHICH ARE VERY VALUABLE FOR FURNISHING FOOD TO STOCK, AND THEREBY SAVING HAY.

IN ORDER TO ASCERTAIN THE REAL VALUE OF THESE CROPS FOR THE PURPOSE ABOVE NAMED, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO COMPARE THE NUTRITIVE PROPERTIES OF THE SEVERAL ARTICLES WITH GOOD HAY AS THE STANDARD.

EXPERIMENTS, AND CLOSE AND CAREFUL COMPARISON OF THE RESULTS OF MANY TRIALS, HAVE GIVEN THE FOLLOWING AS THE COMPARATIVE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ARTICLES MENTIONED AND GOOD HAY.

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# THE MAINE FARMER: AN

## The Muse.

### A WOMAN'S QUESTION.

The following beautiful piece of poetry is taken from a new work entitled "Legends and Lyrics," recently published in London, by Adelaide Anne Proctor—a daughter of Barry Cornwall:

Before I trust my Fate to thee,  
Or place my hand in thine,  
Before I let thy Future give  
Color and form to mine,  
Before I part all for thee, question thy soul to-night  
for me.

I break all lighter bonds, nor feel  
A shadow of regret

Is there one link within the Past?

That holds thy spirit yet;  
Or is thy Faith as clear and free as that which I can  
pledge to thee?

Does there within thy dimmest dreams  
A possible future shiver?

Whence thy life could hereforth breathe,

Untouched, unshaded by mine?

If so, at any pain or cost, oh, tell me before all is lost.

Look deeper still. If thou canst feel,

Within thy honest soul,

That thou has kept a portion back;

While I shake the scold,

Let no pity spare the blow, but in true mercy tell  
me so.

Is there within thy heart a need  
That mine cannot fulfil?

One chord that any other hand  
Could better wake or still?

Speak now—last at some future day my whole life with-  
er and decay.

Lives there within thy nature hid  
The demon-spirit Change,

Shedding a passing glory still?

On all things now and strange?

It may not be thy fault alone—but shield my heart

against thy own.

Could'st thou withdraw thy hand one day  
And answer to my claim,

The Fate, and that to-day's mistake,

Not thou—had been to blame;

Some sooth their conscience thus: but thou, O, surely,  
Will warn me now.

Nay, answer not—I dare not hear,

The words would come too late;

Yet I would spare thee all remorse,

So, comfort thee, my Fate:

Whatever on my heart may fall—remember, I would  
risk it all.

From the London Town Talk.

### THE SMELLS.

BY EDGAR AH POOR!

Poss the river with its smells,  
Horrid smells!

What a risk of fever the experiment compels!

How they stifle, stifle, stifle,

On the left shore and the right;

How your helpless lungs they rile

Of the last remaining trife

Of their breath, and put to flight

Any rhyme, rhyme, rhyme,

You're composing at the time;

For your business calculation, if you're one who buys and sells,

Do the smells, smells, smells,

Do the smells, smells, smells,

Do the choking and provoking of the smells!

Go through Lambeth with its smells,

Cham-smells!

Generated out of houses detectable as Pell's;

When the scent of rotten cheese

You have passed, your nostrils seize

Odors, as from burst old coat,

Or the singed hair of a goat

Or racoon!

You seek refuge on a Jutten steamboat

Very soon.

Or of all the dreaful smells!

How it smells!

From its drain and sewer cells,

Does the nuisance—and you soon repeat your steamboat

voyage hire,

Having fallen from the frying-pan and tumbled into the fire

fire

Of the smells, smells, smells,

Of the smells, smells, smells,

Of the poisoned, severe-poisoned, river smells.

Then the House of Commons smells,

Fetid smells.

What a gust of cabbage water round the building dwells!

Can you taste that night?

Members jumble wrong with right,

Having walked upon that terrace and inhaled the river's

bright;

Wafted upward from the ripple,

Is it marvel they should tipple,

And sinks in the down-stairs room,

Swinging deeper, deeper, deeper,

Wetting frequently each paper,

In a desperate endeavor

Now, how to quench or never

The choleric's torb of doom?

If the House of Commons stood

In a pleasant vale or wood,

Or a healthy street, we might expect some reasons strong  
and good;

But it stands,

By the strands

Of the Thames, which sets its bands

On the honorable members and the legislative swells,

Of the smells, smells, smells,

Of the smells, smells, smells,

Of the clogging, brain-boggling river smells!

Lower down the river smells—

Then you find what'sfascinating

In their fétid, foul stagnation,

Of each "more unfortunate" the certain doom that

smells;

O'er the crusty stream

Selden female garments gleam;

And it's rarely that the fisher's hand a tale of murder tells;

But there's something in the river, with its foul and filthy smells,

By its smells, smells, smells,

By its smells, smells, smells,

By its ranorous, cantankerous foul smells.

### THE WHISTLE.

BY ROBERT STORY.

"You have heard," said a youth to his sweetheart who stood,

While he sat on a corn sheaf at daylight's decline,

You have heard of the Danie boy's whistle of wood—

I wish that the Danish boy's whistle were mine.

"And what would you do with it? Tell me," she said,

While an arch smile played over her beautiful face.

"I would blow it," he answered, "and then my fair maid would fly to my side, and would take her place.

"Certainly," said I; "we shall probably think that I have

got all that in due course of time. Here, take another cigar, and don't be impatient!"

The young widow returned to her friends in Vermont, and what followed, although I did not get acquainted with the facts until a very short time ago, I shall proceed to tell you in the order they occurred.

Within a week or so after her arrival at her old home, John Wolfe received a letter from her father, returning him the thousand dollars so kindly advanced to his daughter, with a profusion of thanks for his kindness to his beloved child, and expressing a strong desire to be able to repay it by any service it might be in his power to perform in return.

But there was another enclosure, which John, it seems, thought a great deal more about than the old man's and the thousand dollars, and this was a letter from the young widow herself, so brimful of gratitude that he began to be almost

# THE MAINE FARMER: AN

## The Story Teller.

### JOHN WOLFE'S RICH WIFE.

ashamed to think that he had done so little for such a return, and was rather sorry that he had not found time to have gone personally to comfort her her sore affliction.

I do not know exactly how it came about, but one letter brought on another, until a pretty regular correspondence sprang up between them. It happened, also, that the widow's father who was a retired lawyer, living on the frugal savings of a frugal life, was able to confer a very considerable favor on John Wolfe's house, by saving them from a severe loss by a dishonest customer who had suddenly taken it into his head, after a lifetime of honesty, to turn rogue, sell his goods to a cash customer who presented himself just at the right time, and slip off to California with the proceeds.

A friend of the old lawyer was employed to draw up the bill of sale, who mentioned to him, casually, that so and so was selling out and going to the new land of promise; and knowing that this individual was largely indebted to John Wolfe's house, he quietly slipped himself off to New York by the first stage, without mentioning to any one but wife and daughter where he was going. Arrived in New York, he introduced himself, personally, to John Wolfe, and then proceeded to inform him of the important business which brought him to the city. As the casual creditor was expected to take the next California steamer, no time was lost in getting matters fixed, and just as the gentleman was depositing himself, carpet-bag and plunder, on board the steamer for Aspinwall, he found himself rather unexpectedly obliged to relinquish his journey and pay a visit to John Wolfe's house, where, after paying over his full indebtedness, he was released, only to be carefully attended to by the rest of his rather urgent creditors.

The whole affair proved a most successful one, and highly creditable to all parties concerned, but most especially to the young widow and her little darling, who presented him with a gold watch and chain, a diamond ring, a diamond bracelet, and a diamond necklace, all of which were given to the old lawyer, who, in turn, gave them to John Wolfe.

"Well, my good fellow," said I, "you happen to be wide of the mark this time. I know how John Wolfe got his rich wife, and can assure you that he did not marry her for her money; and, moreover, did not dream of ever getting one cent with her."

"Yes," said he, sneeringly, "all those rich fellows pretend that they don't care anything about it; but don't you think I am quite as green as you?"

"Oh, ho!" he exclaimed, "I guess you must have fallen in love with her; rather a pity you were married so long ago; you might have out John, and got a rich wife yourself."

"Not a bit of it," said I; "but you shall hear the whole story if you will come to my house to-night; and while we have our smoke on the piazza, I'll see if I cannot wipe some of the cynic out of your composition."

"Agreed," said he, "I'll be with you after supper."

About five years ago, John Wolfe's book-keeper made a pretty little girl up in his native village, in Vermont, brought her down to New York, and started house-keeping in the very snuggest cottage in Brooklyn. I was invited to the house-warming, and a more delightful evening does not often checker the dull business of life than we passed. There were not over a dozen of us, male and female; but we were all cronies, and intimate enough to be as free and pleasant together as we could be at home.

The party broke up at twelve, and Mrs. Dick and myself trotted home, as satisfied with our evening's enjoyment as need be.

Just one week after that my wife told me, with tears in her eyes, that John Wolfe's book-keeper had been quite well for two days past, and not an hour before had suddenly expired, while sitting by the fireside, with scarcely a spasm or a pang. A disease of the heart had carried him off thus unexpectedly, and his wife was in terrible affliction.

Things went on about so for two years, perhaps a little passing between the parties about once a month, and John Wolfe and the young widow almost began courting by letter, without either one having yet seen the other.

At last, one warm July, business being somewhat slow, John Wolfe took a trip to the White Mountains for a week or two, and while there, became acquainted, as traveling bachelors often will, with a party of five young folks—three ladies and two gentlemen.

The two eldest couples were men and wives, not a very long time past the honey-moon; the third was a young widow, who had been terribly ill during the summer, and had scarcely recovered, having paid her a small per cent for their trouble in packing and fixing. This, however, required the outlay of a couple of hundred of dollars; the funeral expenses were one hundred and fifty more, and she had not twenty dollars in the world towards it.

The next morning, therefore, saw me at John Wolfe's store; he had just returned from a business tour South, and was quite shocked to hear of his book-keeper's sudden death. I briefly related to him the situation in which the young widow had been left, and the arrangements I had made with creditors, and awaited his answer.

"Call as you go home this evening," said he, "and I will attend to it. I am very busy now."

When I called in the evening he handed me a letter for the widow, and, begging me to let him open it, he read it, and then, with a certain Jane Pinkerton, as he called her, had played the very diction with the Platonic affection he had been secretly nourishing for the last two years.

I confess I had never entertained a very favorable opinion of John Wolfe; he had always seemed to me overbearing and proud, and looked, I thought, as many young men do, who have never known anything of making a living for themselves and are very apt to think that they are made out of rather superior stuff to the rest of us, and must be looked up to and smiled upon by all the rest of the world.

John Wolfe was received with high gratification by the old lawyer and his wife, when he presented himself at their house. He, too, could scarcely have been prouder to receive him as a guest than were to welcome him. The daughter, however, was absent when he arrived, but a message was sent off to her by the old lady, and it was not long before she made her appearance.

"Well, John Wolfe," said I, "after this I will never again judge a man on appearance!"

"I should like to know," said my cynical friend, interrupting me, "what has got to do with John Wolfe's rich wife?"

"Well," said I; "we shall probably think that I have got all that in due course of time. Here, take another cigar, and don't be impatient!"

The young widow returned to her friends in Vermont, and what followed, although I did not get acquainted with the facts until a very short time ago, I shall proceed to tell you in the order they occurred.

Within a week or so after her arrival at her old home, John Wolfe received a letter from her father, returning him the thousand dollars so kindly advanced to his daughter, with a profusion of thanks for his kindness to his beloved child, and expressing a strong desire to be able to repay it